

where we had lived, to Philadelphia, PA, to live with my father's sister because my father could not earn a living in Kansas.

Recently, not unexpectedly, Annie has become infirm. When I have visited in recent years, it has been difficult to talk to her, but last night we had a nice conversation over the phone.

Her longevity has set a remarkable family record evidencing good genes and setting a Strom Thurmond-like target to emulate. She is a wonderful woman, a wonderful aunt, and a wonderful role model.

Happy Birthday, Tante Annie!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ESTABROOK'S

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, with Christmas just a few short days away, we have all witnessed the signs of the season popping up in our neighborhoods. From vibrant wreaths and Christmas trees to wind-blown snow banks, these peaceful symbols provide many of us with a comforting feeling of home. Today I recognize a small Maine nursery that grows its own beautiful poinsettias, and supplies many other seasonal flora, to accentuate the beauty of the Christmas season.

Estabrook's has been a reliable family-owned, full service garden center for more than 50 years. Located in the coastal town of Yarmouth, Estabrook's grows fresh plants in its over 20 greenhouses and outdoor growing areas. The company also operates seasonal locations in Scarborough and, beginning earlier this year, in Kennebunk. Home to an abundance of trees and shrubs, perennial and annual flowers, and seeds for growing vegetables, Estabrook's also carries a variety of gardening supplies, such as chemicals, fertilizers and tools. In an effort to better inform its customers about the wonders of gardening, Estabrook's user-friendly website offers a variety of tips and best practices regarding caring for flowers and plants.

To properly celebrate the holidays, Estabrook's provides its clients with an abundance of seasonal items. For example, during the Christmas season the nursery creates stunning fresh centerpieces and grows its own brilliant red poinsettias. Additionally, aside from Christmas trees and wreaths, the company stocks a variety of garlands, roping, and other timely decorating supplies and ornaments to bring home the memorable sights and smells of the season.

Beyond its role as a stellar nursery, Estabrook's prides itself as being an extraordinarily active member of the local community. The company has widely promoted the Herbie Project, an undertaking to save New England's largest American Elm Tree, known to locals as Herbie. This initiative is particularly noteworthy given that Yarmouth has lost roughly 800 American

Elm trees to Dutch Elm Disease over the past fifty years. Additionally, Estabrook's has donated its gift certificates, cleverly known as "Estabucks," to community efforts, including the Holiday Boast N Toast Auction to benefit the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fund and YarmouthCAN, a nonprofit that assists those needing a helping hand. The nursery has also taken great strides toward creating the Yarmouth Community Garden, which raises vegetables that are then donated to the area's disadvantaged individuals and families.

A well-known and trusted name in the community for over half a century, Estabrook's is a valued business in the town of Yarmouth because of its longstanding dedication to quality greenery and its visible presence in civic endeavors townwide. I thank everyone at Estabrook's for their caring and kind commitment to others, and wish them a happy and safe holiday season. •

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which will celebrate their 125th anniversary in 2010.

Located in Rapid City, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology has been a national leader in preparing world-class engineers and scientists since 1885. Graduates design, construct, and operate the most modern technology to meet complex challenges such as climate change, bioenergy, mineral extraction and processing, advanced materials, environmental quality, and national defense. School of Mines alumni are held in the highest regard by their fellow leaders in industry, consulting, government, health, research, and education.

The School of Mines is proud to be a leading partner in bringing the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory, DUSEL, from an extraordinary vision to a phenomenal reality. The longstanding connections between the School of Mines and the Homestake Mine began in 1885 when the university was established to meet the growing research needs of the mining industry, led by Homestake. These connections continued when nearly a decade ago, the School of Mines helped champion the conversion of the mine into a national laboratory. Today, as we continue to prepare leaders in engineering and science, we are collaborating with our colleagues to transform Homestake into a world-class laboratory to further exceptional research and discoveries not yet imagined.

Rugged individuals and pioneers in engineering and science founded the School of Mines' intellectual environment more than a century ago. The university's faculty, staff, students, and alumni carry on that tradition today. In 2010, the School of Mines celebrates 125 years of award-winning faculty, staff, and students collabo-

rating to solve issues of critical importance to South Dakota, the nation, and the world. Please join me as we celebrate their legacy of educating the leaders of tomorrow. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4126. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9087-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4127. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference; Correction" (FRL No. 9093-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4128. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address for Submission of Certain Reports; Technical Corrections" (FRL No. 9093-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4129. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Monterey Bay Region 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 8983-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4130. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide; State of